

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 178395

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:CF

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR ATHERTON

P - MR HABIB

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 178395

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS//FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LE, SY, US

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: BEIRUT 6424

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM SYRIANS URGENTLY THROUGH MOST EXPEDITIOUS CHANNEL THAT EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS BEEN TOLD THROUGH ITS PLO SECURITY CONTACT THAT OUR EVACUATION CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 20 MUST BE POSTPONED. POSTPONEMENT WAS SAID TO BE ON INSTRUCTIONS OF ARAFAT, WHO SAID CONVOY ROUTE HAD SUDDENLY BECOME UNSAFE NEAR NABATIYA, AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE TWO TO THREE DAYS TO RESOLVE THE SECURITY PROBLEM. WE ARE CONCERNED AT DELAY BUT HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO POSTPONE THE CONVOY.

2. TELL THE SYRIANS THAT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM A SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE NABATIYA AREA, AND ASK THEM IF THEY KNOW OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE OCCASIONED

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PLO POSTPONEMENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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To: DAMASCUS BEIRUT
Type: TE
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